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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1972

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CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council : Mrs. P. H. SPILLER, J.P.

Chairman of Public Health Committee : H. S. GOOD, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Housing Committee : Mrs. P. H. SPILLER, J.P.

Chairman of Finance Committee : R. F. HOEFKENS, Esq.

Clerk of the Council : W. MIDWOOD

Medical Officer of Health : P. V. CANT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.

Surveyor : J. S. SIMMS.

Public Analyst : S. GREENBURGH, PH.D., B.SC., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge.

Laboratory Facilities :
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE :
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Consulting Engineers : MESSRS. PICK, EVERARD, KEAY & GIMSON.

Report on the Huntingdon Rural District for 1972

Madam Chairman, Mrs. Compton and Gentleman,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifteenth Annual Report upon the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December 1972.

The District is made up of a large number of villages. Agriculture is the chief local industry, but many residents work in the near-by towns of Huntingdon or Peterborough, where there is industrial and other employment.

There are several large airfields in the District so that many British and American Air Force Personnel live in the area with their families.

The Registrar General estimated that the mid-year population was 17,270 an increase of 620 over the previous year.

There were 287 live births during the year, 22 less than in 1971. The crude birth rate was 16.6 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate 14.4. For England and Wales the birth-rate was 14.8.

Seven infant deaths occurred during the year, but there were no stillbirths. This gave an Infantile Mortality rate of 24 per thousand live births but a stillbirth rate of nil. The figures vary considerably from year to year as present District statistics are relatively small. In the future, with larger Districts, they will not vary much.

There were 112 deaths during the year 60 males and 52 females. The crude death rate was 6.5 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate 10.1 per 1,000. For England and Wales the death rate was 12.1 per 1,000 population.

There was again little notifiable diseases during the year. Measles, 13 cases, being the disease most commonly occurring. There were no new cases of Tuberculosis or deaths from that disease.

In closing I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff for all the help which they have given me during the past year and throughout the time that I have been Medical Officer of Health to the District.

I am most grateful for the notes which follow this introduction. They give a short account of the history and development of the District and have been by Mr. Dixon.

As this will be the last annual report of the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector for the Huntingdon Rural District Council it was felt that reference should be made to some of the activities of the Council over the past 79 years.

The Huntingdon Rural District Council met for the first time on the 29th December, 1894 under the Chairmanship of G. J. Rust, Esq., in the Huntingdon Union Workhouse Board Room at 11.0 a.m. Previously the Board of Guardians had met in this Board Room, and continued to do so following the formation of the Council.

At the inception E. W. Hunnybun, Esq. was acting Clerk, Dr. L. Newton was acting Melical Officer of Health and F. Fortescue, Esq. was acting Inspector of nuisances. All of these were appointed officially and were evidently operating from their homes or business premises. In 1939 Montagu House was purchased and became the official offices of the Council.

The first mention of the delegation of power to a Committee is recorded on the 1st June, 1895 when the Brampton Cemetery Committee consisting of three members was formed.

Meetings of the Council continued to be held at the Huntingdon Union Workhouse Board Room until 1933 when the venue was changed to the Shire Hall, Huntingdon and subsequently to the County Buildings, Huntingdon in 1946. Full Council Meetings are still held at the County Buildings although Committee Meetings are held in Montagu House.

CHAIRMEN OF THE COUNCIL

1894—1902	G. J. Rust
1902—1922	W. Brawn
1922—1924	H. W. Saunders
1924—1962	J. H. Moss M.B.E.
1962—1968	G. L. Grey J.P.
1968—1971	H. S. Good J.P.
1971—	Mrs. P. H. Spiller, J.P.

CLERKS OF THE COUNCIL

1895—1913	E. W. Hunnybun
1913—1939	K. Hunnybun
1939—1946	A. Levett Nokes
1946	W. Midwood

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH OF THE COUNCIL

1895—1926	Dr. L. Newton	
1926—1958	Dr. J. R. Garrood	
1958—1958	Dr. F. D. F. Steede	Joint Appointments with County Council
1958	Dr. P. V. Cant	

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS & SURVEYORS OF THE COUNCIL-JOINT APPOINTMENTS

1895—1934	F. Fortescue
1934—1945	W. Midwood
1945—1955	B. R. Dixon

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR OF THE COUNCIL

1955	**B. R. Dixon**

SURVEYOR OF THE COUNCIL

1955	J. S. Simms

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Alconbury & Alconbury Weston	1952
Brampton	1953
Sawtry	1957
Conington	1961
Upwood	1962
The Stukeleys	1968
Great Gidding	1969
Kings Ripton	1971
Easton, Ellington & Spaldwick.	1972

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Regional Water Scheme

1937—Abbots Ripton, Kings Ripton, Great Raveley, Little Raveley, Upwood, Great Stukeley, Little Stukeley, Woodwalton, Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Upton, aerodromes at Upwood and Wyton.
1942—Sawtry and Conington.

Winwick, Great Gidding and Hamerton Scheme

1942—Winwick, The Giddings and Hamerton.

Brampton Scheme

1945—Brampton, Easton, Elligton and Spaldwick.

Molesworth Scheme

1952—Bythorn, Keyston, Brington, Molesworth, Old Weston, Leighton Bromswold, Barham, Woolley and Buckworth.

All public water supplies were transferred to Nene & Ouse Water Board in 1962.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, in acres	69,937
Estimated Population (mid-1972)	17,270
Density of Population per acre	0·25
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1972	4,913
Number of Inhabited Houses, excluding Air Ministry	4,156
Rateable Value, 31-12-72	£492,546
Product of Penny Rate, 31-3-72	£4,577

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	
Number	287
Rate per 1,000 population	16.6
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births ...	6
Stillbirths	
Number	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still-births	Nil
Total Live and Still-births	287
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	7
Infant Mortality Rate	
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 live births	24
Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) ...	7
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	6.5

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales : —

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live births	Per 1,000 Total births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Huntingdon Rural	16·6	14·4	6·5	10·1	24	Nil
England & Wales	14·8	14·8	12·1	12·1	17	12

Comparability factor for births, 0.87 and for deaths, 1.55

The Comparability factors shown under the table of birth and death rates are supplied by the Registrar General. When our local rates are multiplied by these figures they are comparable with the national figures, or with the adjusted rates of anywhere else in the country. In issuing the factors, allowance is made for any unusual distribution of age groups in the population.

Infant Deaths

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Number of Deaths	4	6	Nil	6	3	7
Death Rates of Infants per 1,000 live births	15	21	Nil	23	10	24

Summary of Causes of Deaths

Deaths from Cancer including Leukaemia	**21**
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	**6**
Cancer of the Stomach	**1**
Ischaemic Heart Disease	**24**
Other Forms of Heart Disease	**5**
Motor Vehicle Accidents	**9**
All Other Accidents	**3**

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures):—

Causes of Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	—	1
Leukaemia	—	1	1
Other Malignant neoplasms	3	4	7
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	—	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	—	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	—	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	1	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	10	24
Other forms of heart disease	3	1	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	9	13
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2	4
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	1	8
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Other diseases of digestive system	—	3	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	—	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	5	—	5
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	4	9
All other accidents	3	—	3
Total all causes	60	52	112

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1972 :—

Disease	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	13	5	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Jaundice	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis (post infectious)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1972 and there were no deaths from the disease.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

P. V. CANT.

The Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.
PE2 8RB

Peterborough 68010.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

MONTAGU HOUSE,
HUNTINGDON

SEWERS

The villages of Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Brampton, Sawtry, Conington, Upwood, Great Stukeley, Little Stukeley, Great Gidding, Easton, Ellington, Spaldwick and Kings Ripton have sewers and sewerage disposal works.

The Easton, Ellington and Spaldwick scheme was completed during the year.

HOUSING

Number of houses in the district at the end of 1971	4,672
Number of new dwellings constructed during 1972	260
Number of houses demolished or closed during 1972 ...	19
Number of houses in the district at the end of 1972 ...	4,913
Number of dwellings including caravans	5,004

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of houses with W.C's	4,827
Number of houses with pail closets	83
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	260
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old properties ...	23
Number of W.C. conversions grant aided (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936)	3

DUSTBINS

Number of new bins provided during the year	283
Number of dustbins emptied by private contractor	247
Number of other properties other than dwellings from which dustbins are emptied by the Council	93

REFUSE COLLECTION

Frequency—Night soil	Weekly
Dry refuse	Weekly
Transport and No. of men	2 vehicles, 6 men

Whole area is covered.

Particulars of service(s)—

Unburnable refuse collection and night soil collection.

Details of disposal arrangements—

Controlled tipping and to Alconbury Sewage works.

Complaints received re non-removal	31
No. of bins emptied (from dwellings and caravans)	5,344
No. of pail closets emptied	83

DRAINS

New drains tested	349
Existing drains inspected	66
Existing drains repaired or reconstructed	52

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

No. of disposal works for villages	7
No. of disposal works for Council Houses	1
No. of cesspools abolished	7

SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

No. of offices registered during 1972	2
No. of retail shops registered during 1972	1
No. of wholesale shops, warehouses registered during 1972	Nil
No. of catering establishments registered during 1972 ...	1
No. of fuel storage depots registered during 1972	Nil
Total No. of premises registered	53

	Males	*Females*	Total
Total No. of persons employed in registered premises	105	162	267

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of licences in force December, 1972 (Multiple Sites) ...	3
No. of caravans on these sites	57
No. of licences for single caravans	57
Estimated No. of residents on all sites	197
No. of inspections made	180
No. of nuisances investigated	18
No. of nuisances remedied	16

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of licences issued as renewals	73
No. of new licences issued	1
Total number of licences in force	73
No. of tanks and pipe lines tested	6

PESTS ACT, 1949

INSPECTIONS

No. of houses inspected and reinspected	903
No. of agricultural inspections and reinspections	360
No. of business premises inspected and reinspected	15
No. of L.A. properties inspected (excluding council houses)	115
Total No. of inspections and reinspections	1599

TREATMENTS

No. of houses treated and retreated	239
No. of agricultural treatments and retreatments	287
No. of business premises treated and retreated	5
No. of L.A. properties treated (excluding council houses) ...	47
Total No. of treatments and retreatments	578

ENFORCEMENT

No. of statutory notices served under Sec. 4	Nil

No infestations of a serious nature were observed nor has any evidence of warfarin resistance been apparent.

In accordance with the Ministry's suggestions for the eradication of rats in sewers the whole of the sewerage schemes for Sawtry and Brampton have been treated.

DESTRUCTION OF WASPS

The pest officer dealt with 10 nests in 1972. A charge is made for the service in accordance with the Council's resolution. Appreciation must be expressed of the assistance rendered unofficially in so many ways by the Huntingdon Research Centre and the Monks Wood Experimental Station. Every question relating to pests of all kinds has been answered with courtesy and efficiency.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1971 —

General Stores	31
Cafes and Restaurants	13
Butchers	5
Licensed Premises	24
Bakehouses	2

NUISANCES

Abated as a result of informal action	161
Abated as a result of Statutory action	Nil

Analysis of nuisances	*No.*	*No. of Inspections*
Premises	132	236
Accumulations of Refuse	11	24
Foul ditches	7	15
Drains	9	21
Keeping of animals	2	5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No. of visits for the inspection of meat to—	
Shops	26
Stalls	Nil
Vehicles	17

During the year 1 cwt. 43 lbs, of food other than meat and 25lbs, of meat were found to be unsound and surrendered,

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	49
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausage	4
No. of inspections	92

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTION

No. of poultry processing premises	1
No. of visits	11
Total number of birds processed during the year	21,000
Types of birds processed	Turkeys and Chickens
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption ...approx.	0.01%

The majority of the turkeys are bred on the farm attached to the processing plant. It is necessary for the owner to cull all birds at the slightest show of indisposition, to protect his breeding stock, therefore the poultry arriving at the plant is generally in good condition.

General oversight is maintained by a spotter at the plant and reference is made to the Public Health Dept. if necessary.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	Nil
Number of cases	4
Number of deaths	Nil

FACTORIES ACT — 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without Power	4	7	Nil	Nil
Factories with Power	32	46	Nil	Nil
Building Sites, etc.	19	15	Nil	Nil
Totals	55	68	Nil	Nil

There were no outworkers in the District.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Four certificates of registration are now in force.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Two licences, one for cats and one for dogs, have been issued.

GAME DEALERS LICENCE

One licence was issued during the year.

HOUSING

1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 361

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 573

(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 11

(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 116

2. **Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—**
   (*a*) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants 50
   (*b*) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit with the assistance of Improvement Grants 16

3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**

(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:—
   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil
   (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
      (*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil
      (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil
   (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
      (*a*) By owners ... ... Nil
      (*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(C)—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1957, & Sections 10(1) & 11(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—
   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 11
   (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 19
   (3) Number of houses closed during the year ... Nil
   (4) Number of families displaced during the year 7
   (5) Number of persons displaced during the year 16

(D)—Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—
   (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

(E)—Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—
CLEARANCE AREAS:—

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year ... ... Nil

(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above Nil

(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation ... ... Nil

(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.... ... ... Nil

(5) Number of families displaced during the year Nil

(6) Number of houses demolished during the year Nil

4. **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding**

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 6

(ii) Number of families therein 6

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 41

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ... Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(*a*) *Discretionary Grants*

12 houses have been improved with the assistance of discretionary grants. The total amount of grant being £11,135

(*b*) *Standard Grants*

4 houses have been improved with the assistance of standard grants. The total amount of grant being £1.320

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

. qualification certificates have been issued during the year.

NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED 1972

VILLAGE	PRIVATE		COUNCIL		TOTALS
	Houses	Bungalows	Houses	Bungalows	
Alconbury	40	1			41
Brampton	1				1
Brington		1			1
Buckworth	2				2
Bythorn	1				1
Great Gidding	11	2			13
Steeple Gidding	1				1
Hamerton				4	4
Leighton	2				2
Abbots Ripton	2				2
Kings Ripton	3	1			4
Sawtry	121	28			149
Spaldwick	1	1			2
Great Stukeley	6		4	12	22
Upwood	12	2			14
Great Raveley	1				1
TOTAL	204	36	4	16	260

WATER SUPPLIES

The control of the water supplies is in the hands of the Nene and Ouse Water Board.

The water contains very little fluoride and no action has been taken to introduce fluoride into the water.

There are no standpipes in the District.

B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.